

OTTAWA Mercury 12  
170194

POLREP 2

DATE: 12/20/91

FROM: BRAD BENNING, OSC, EERB, RESPONSE SECTION II

- TO: S. LUFTIG - ATTN: TERRY JOHNSON, USEPA, OSWER, WASH, D.C.
- B. BOWDEN, BRANCH CHIEF, EERB, CHICAGO, IL
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SUBJECT: OTTAWA MERCURY SITE, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

POLREP: POLREP 2

SITE NO: PR

D.O. NO: 7640-05-206

RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA

NPL STATUS: NON-NPL

START DATE: 12/10/91

1. SITUATION

The Ottawa/Grandadam site is a private residence located in Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois. On October 15 or 16, 1991, approximately 3 to 4 ounces of metallic mercury was spilled in the home by the children living there. On the same day the children spilled an unknown quantity of mercury into a backyard fire at the same residence. One of the children became ill and was diagnosed as having mercury poisoning. The other seven occupants of the home were tested and found to have elevated blood mercury levels. All occupants have vacated the premises by order of LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD). Investigations by the LCHD, Illinois Department of Public Health, and United States Environmental Protection Agency determined that the residence contained elevated levels of mercury that posed a threat to the health of the occupants.

2. SITE ACTIVITIES

On 12/16/91 ERCS added two more members to crew bringing total crew to six. Baseboards are removed from boys' bedroom. Mercury vapor readings obtained near baseboard are 0.771 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Baseboard area is filled with HgX. Remaining carpet, basement items, and waterbeds removed from house. A video camera is acquired from LaSalle County Health Department for use in inventorying remaining items and documenting activities. ERCS continue to wash walls and floors with soap and using a nitric acid rinse.

On 12/17/91 ERCS continues to load furniture, clothing, etc. to rolloff and wash walls and floors. Cold air ducts are removed and furnace is washed down. Small dime-size pools of mercury found in yard near alley. Only top half-inch of soil and gravel is excavated in this area due to frozen ground. Gravel is ordered to place over area. TAT and OSC check the Twardowski residence for mercury contamination. Entire house has Jerome model 411 readings of 0.000mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Beads of mercury were found in Twardowski's garage in the place where the children obtained the mercury. ERCS placed HgX on the beads and left overnight. Hazardous rolloff box obtained. Contaminated items placed in hazardous rolloff box.

On 12/18/91 ERCS continue to wash walls and floors. Painting begins in basement. Varnishing and painting begins upstairs. Mercury beads in Twardowski's garage are picked up with mercury vacuum. Baseboard area in boys' bedroom is filled with HgX and then filled with wallboard compound. Remaining items from boys' bedroom is inventoried by video and then placed in rolloff.

On 12/19/91 ERCS continue to wash walls, floors and kitchen cabinets and appliances. Painting is completed in basement. Varnishing of living room panelling completed. A solution of HgX is sprayed on babies' and boys' bedrooms. Painting continues upstairs.

On 12/20/91 ERCS finishes washing and painting. Gravel is spread over contaminated areas near alley and street. Site is closed down.

### 3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- o Install new duct work
- o Confirmation of cleanup air sampling
- o Confirmation of cleanup soil sampling
- o Return of non-contaminated furniture to house

### 4. COSTS

	<u>CEILING</u>	<u>COSTS TO DATE</u>	<u>BALANCE REMAINING</u>
ERCS	75,000	39,429	35,571
TAT	12,750	10,068	2,682
TOTAL	87,750	49,497	38,253

5. DISPOSAL SUMMARY

WASTE STREAM	QUANTITY	DATE	DISPOSAL METHOD	FACILITY
MERCURY CONTAMINATED DEBRIS				
DEBRIS	40 yards	12/17/91	landfill	Environ
	20 yards	12/19/91	landfill	Tech